Legislative Assembly
of Prince Edward Island

2008 Annual Report

Prince Edward Island
Legislative Assembly

Office of the Speaker
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

Île-du-Prince-Édouard
Assemblée législative

Bureau du présidente
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE
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March 31, 2009

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly,

It is my pleasure to submit the Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the period January 1, 2008—December 31, 2008.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all staff of the Legislative Assembly for the important work they do in supporting the exercise of parliamentary democracy on Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully,

Hon. Kathleen Casey, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

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March 30, 2009

Honourable Kathleen Casey, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province House
Charlottetown

Dear Madam Speaker,

I have the pleasure of presenting the 7th Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This report will highlight the various activities of the Office of the Clerk and Office of the Legislative Assembly for the Period January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
and Secretary, P.E.I. Branch, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

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Part 1 – Management

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ADMINISTRATION

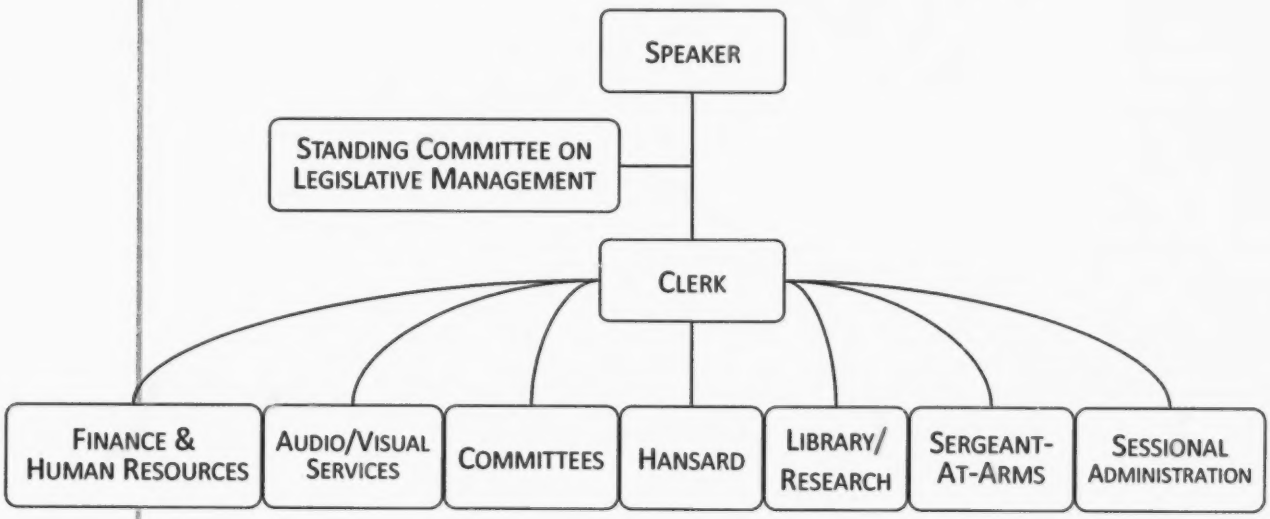
Office of the Legislative Assembly

The Office of the Legislative Assembly (OLA) provides the administrative and procedural support Members need to carry out their duties as elected officials. The OLA functions as an impartial authority responsible for the administration of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Legislative Management, chaired by the Speaker and composed of Members of the House, governs the OLA and ensures an "arm's length" relationship is maintained between the operation of the House and the operation of the Executive.

Below is an unofficial organizational chart of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

The OLA has access to a wide range of staff and resources that help support the activities of the House and provide services to the public: administrators, lawyers, security, researchers, computer technicians, and maintenance personnel.



Standing Committee on Legislative Management

Chaired by the Speaker, the Committee oversees the administration of the House. Membership in the Committee is set out in the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, which states that the Leader of the Official Opposition, Leader of the Third Party, Government House Leader, Government Caucus Chair, Opposition Caucus Chair, and the Deputy Speaker, or designates for any, sit as members.

The Standing Committee on Legislative Management, pursuant to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, is comprised of the Speaker (as Chair), the Leader of the Official Opposition (or designate), Leader of the Third Party (or designate), Government House Leader (or designate), Government Caucus Chair (or designate), Opposition Caucus Chair (or designate) and the Deputy Speaker.

The Committee is charged with matters as follows:

(a) policies for the administration of the Legislative Assembly,

(b) the provision of security, facilities, and services, including allocation to party caucuses and individual Members,

(c) the appointment, supervision, and management of the staff of the Legislative Assembly, other than the staff of party caucus offices and the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.

(d) review of estimates of expenditure for the Legislative Assembly, including the forecasts and analysis of expenditures and financial commitments of the Assembly,

(e) other matters necessary for the efficient and effective operation and management of the Legislative Assembly.

During 2008, the Committee was active in dealing with such matters as staffing, budget for the Legislative Assembly, management of Province House and Queens Square, operation of the offices of the officers of the Legislative

Standing Committee on Legislative Management

Assembly and many other administrative matters, issues and initiatives respecting the operations of the House. Specifically, some of the matters considered by the Committee include;

- Planning and base budget for the Legislative Assembly for 2008/2009
- Recommended appointment of Ms. Judy Haldemann as Information and Privacy Commissioner (Acting)
- Official opening of the Legislative Assembly Research Library
- Staffing and personnel issues in Elections PEI
- Support for the *Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie* (Note: Melissa Keefe, Assembly Committee Clerk, appointed as Section Secretary (vice Ricky Hitchcock on leave))

The Committee provides security, facilities, and services for party caucuses and Members, appoints staff, and oversees the budget of the Legislative Assembly.

Office of the Clerk

CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Charles H. MacKay

ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Marian Johnston

Sincere appreciation is offered to all of those in the Government Service who contribute so substantially to the operation and support of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. Without the services of these dedicated public servants, the Office of the Assembly would not be in a position to deliver the programming and level of support to members as presently provided. In particular, special thanks are extended to:

- Audio Visual Services (Provincial Treasury)
- Fiscal Management (Provincial Treasury)
- Queen's Printer (Provincial Treasury)
- Financial Information System support
- Information Technology Shared Services
- Department of Transportation and Public Works (especially building maintenance)
- Provincial Archives

Special Projects

Jim MacNutt, Q.C., with the full support of the Office of the Legislative Assembly, will publish a book on the architectural history of Legislative Assembly buildings in the Maritime Provinces. The PEI Legislative Assembly looks forward to using the publication to enhance interpretive services at Province House, particularly as it relates to the early colonial and legislative history of Prince Edward Island.

Activities

2008 was a busy year for the Office of the Clerk as there were many new and ongoing projects to administer in

As the chief permanent officer of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk aides the Speaker in providing administrative support to Members, and advises the Speaker and all Members on parliamentary procedure, helping ensure the proper execution of House rules and practices.

different offices of the Legislative Assembly. Upon completion, these projects will ensure the Legislative Assembly and its staff can perform their duties in an up-to-date, progressive work environment. Some of the projects under way or completed in the last year include:

- the re-establishment of the Legislative Library. The official re-opening was held on May 22, 2008 (see the Legislative Library & Research Service Report on pages 37 and 39 respectively)
- establishment of the first parliamentary calendar in Prince Edward Island's history
- ongoing revision of the annotations of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* for clarity and accessibility regarding the operational practices of the House
- continued discussions with Parks Canada on the capital expenditures required for ongoing maintenance of Province House, as governed by the *Memorandum of Agreement* between the Province and Parks Canada
- upgrade of the video broadcast system in the Legislative Chamber was completed and launched
- consulted with Hansard editor on enhanced indexing options for Hansard, and on the analog to digital conversion of the reel to reel audio recordings of debates in the Legislative Chamber (see the Hansard Report on page 34)
- commissioned an independent assessment of the Assembly's technical requirements and an indication of the support required for same

The Clerk maintains official records of the business of the House, and is the custodian of the House's parliamentary papers.

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk are present at each sitting of the House, seated at a table in front of the Speaker.

Any documents or reports presented by Members during the sitting are given to the Clerk for safekeeping, and are said to have been 'tabled.'

Office of the Clerk

- committee transcription services added to Hansard services
- security system enhancements at Legislative Assembly Office locations in Province House, the Hon. George Coles Building, and the J. Angus MacLean Building began under the direction of the Sergeant-at-Arms
- started internal review of Legislative Assembly's outreach programming and interpretive opportunities at Province House
- ongoing support provided for such initiatives as the 2008 Rotary Youth Parliament, co-management of Province House (in cooperation with Parks Canada),
- hosted the *27th Annual Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference* at Province House from June 19 - 22, 2008.

Conference Activity

- Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada - Winnipeg, Manitoba (PEI representatives were Charles MacKay, Clerk, Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Melissa Keefe, Committee Clerk)
- Council of State Governments/ Eastern Regional Conference, Philadelphia, PA (PEI representative was Ms. Paula Biggar, Deputy Speaker)
- Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees Conference, Whitehorse, Yukon (PEI representatives were Jim Bagnall, MLA (PAC Chair) and Buck Watts, MLA (PAC Vice-Chair)

The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Clerk of Committees are also referred to as the Clerks-at-the-Table or Table Officers.

Part 2 - Responsible Government

House Activity and Budget

Report on House Activity

The 1st Session of the 63rd General Assembly was adjourned to the call of the Speaker November 2, 2007 and subsequently prorogued by Order-in-Council EC2008-119 dated 19 February 2008.

The 2nd Session of the 63rd General Assembly commenced on Friday, April 4, 2008, with the Speech from the Throne as delivered by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, Hon. Barbara A. Hagerman. The Spring sitting lasted 28 sittings days and adjourned to the call of the Speaker on May 22, 2008. The Session reconvened on November 12, 2008 and once again adjourned to the call of the Speaker on December 3, 2008 after 13 Fall sessional sitting days. Worthy of note is that the resumption of business on November 12 marked the first time in the history of the Legislative Assembly of PEI that a parliamentary calendar was enforced. On the adoption to a report from the Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills on March 26, 2008, the House agreed that;

1) the annual fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly is to commence on the first sitting day after Remembrance Day,

2) the annual fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly is to commence during the first week of April, and,

3) Sixty days' notice of the resumption of House business will be provided by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly or Executive Council.

At December 31, 2008, party standings in the House were 24 Liberal Members and 3 Progressive Conservative Members. No by-elections were held during 2008.

PERIOD OF THE REPORT
January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS COVERED IN THIS PERIOD
2nd Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly

Spring Sitting
April 4, 2008 - May 22, 2008

Fall Sitting
November 12, 2008 - December 3, 2008

TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING DAYS, *January to December 2008 - 41*

Report on House Activity

Survey of Sitting Days in the House, 1998-2008

Year	Number of days
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2008	41
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2007*	27
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2006	50
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2005	54
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2004	46
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2003*	44
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2002	45
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2001	44
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2000*	35
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1999	58
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1998	63

**Indicates a General Election year.*

LEGISLATIVE STATISTICS
Government Motions: 42
Government Bills: 64

Private Members' Motions: 2
Private Members' Bills: 1

Written Questions Tabled: 0
Written Questions Answered: 0

FINANCIAL STATISTICS
Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure tabled.

Budget Approved

Capital Estimates introduced

Capital Budget & Budget

On November 29, 2008, Hon. Wes Sheridan, Provincial Treasurer, tabled for the consideration of the House the *2009-2010 Capital Budget* and *Five-Year Capital Plan*. The estimates called for net capital expenditures of $127,353,800 in FY 2009/10.

On April 23, 2008, the Honourable Wes Sheridan tabled his second budget as Provincial Treasurer. General highlights of the Budget for fiscal year 2008/2009 were:

Total Provincial Revenue:	$1,352,400,000
Total Provincial Expenditure:	$1,387,300,000
Total Deficit:	$34,900,000

Bill 101 - An Act to Amend the Revenue Tax Act, *is a Private Members' Bill currently under consideration by the Standing Committee on Community Affairs & Economic Development.*

Budget of the Legislative Assembly

	EXPENSES $	ESTIMATES $
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES		
Administration	130,256	104,500
Equipment	25,077	28,500
Materials, Supplies $ Services	100,676	99,400
Professional & Contract Services	69,975	102,000
Salaries	1,115,378	1,277,500
Travel & Training	25,927	21,100
Grants		
Opposition Members Office	73,300	73,300
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association	24,918	16,000
Government Members Office	95,400	95,400
	1,660,907	1,817,700
Commonwealth Parliamentary Services		
Administration	95,869	95,000
	95,869	95,000
Total Legislative Services	**1,756,776**	**1,912,700**
MEMBERS		
Salaries	1,816,591	2,080,200
Travel & Training	109,224	126,000
Total Members	**1,925,815**	**2,206,200**
OFFICE OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER		
Administration	95	-
Salaries	27,828	26,400
Travel & Training	1,350	3,200
Total Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	**29,273**	**29,600**
OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION & PRIVACY COMMISSIONER		
Administration	6,092	4,900
Materials, Supplies & Services	448	1,600
Professional & Contract Services	1,900	1,000
Salaries	81,654	77,800
Travel & Training	6,985	5,000
Total Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner	**97,079**	**90,300**

Budget of the Legislative Assembly

	EXPENSES $	ESTIMATES $
ELECTIONS PEI		
General		
Administration	3,283	5,000
Equipment	2,550	1,300
Materials, Supplies & Services	318	2,500
Professional & Contract Services	-	14,000
Salaries	158,140	155,100
Travel & Training	5,303	4,000
	169,594	181,900
Election Expense		
Administration	10,933	21,000
Equipment	5,145	11,500
Materials, Supplies & Services	38,772	45,000
Professional & Contract Services	665,110	682,400
Salaries	179,172	170,000
Travel & Training	4,138	8,500
	903,270	938,400
Total Elections	**1,072,864**	**1,120,300**
TOTAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	**4,881,807**	**5,359,100**

Part 3 – Behind the Scenes

Reports from House Offices

Finance & Human Resources

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Cheryl Stead

This office of the Legislative Assembly reports directly to the Clerk on matters relating to Human Resources and Financial Services. The Administrative Officer position focuses mainly, but not exclusively, on pay and benefits for employees and Members; budgeting and day-to-day finances of Legislative Services, the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the Information and Privacy Commission.

An important aspect of the position involves advising employees on benefits and leave interpretation, as well as providing information to both the Government House and Opposition Leaders on matters of salary budgets for staff. Members' pay, including mileage allowances are also part of this position.

The Legislative Assembly payroll system is part of the overall government system and early in 2008, we moved to the PeopleSoft system. I attended a total of five (5) information meetings and four (4) days of training in order to transition to the new system. An integral part of the new payroll system involves employees entering their own leave. This is something new for our employees and involved a considerable amount of my time in the start-up period. From a payroll perspective, the system was totally new and the four days of training crucial in making the transition.

The Legislature hosted the Atlantic Parliamentary Seminar from June 19 to 21. The conference was a great success and very much enjoyed by all participants, I participated in five (5) planning meetings and a debriefing session as part of the preparation for this event.

The annual Canadian Association of Parliamentary Administration, of which I am a member, held its annual conference July 8 - 11, 2008 in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The agenda

was a combination of business and cultural events. The information sessions included such topics as "Election Readiness and Members' Orientation", "Financial Control and Accountability" and "Succession Planning". As always, the opportunity this conference provides for networking with fellow Legislative Administrators is very beneficial.

The Legislative Assembly uses the Oracle Financial System and is a part of the overall government financial process. The annual budget exercise commenced late in December, 2007 for presentation in the Legislature on April 23, 2008. Along with budget preparation, quarterly forecasting is prepared three times annually to ensure operations stay within the approved budget.

The Legislature participates in the Jobs for Youth Program, hiring a Legislative Interpreter for an 8-week period during July and August. Selection interviews, payroll documentation and timekeeping are administered through this office.

In September, the recruitment process for Legislative Pages commenced by sending a letter of invitation to eight senior high schools in the province. The schools choose their candidate and advise the Legislature in time for orientation and uniform fittings well in advance of the November 12, 2008 resumption date.

The annual United Way campaign is conducted from this office. The canvas includes all Members and staff, including Elections PEI. I'm pleased to report that the Legislative Assembly had an excellent level of donor support.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Clerk, Clerk Assistant and all my co-workers for the cooperation and support they provided during the year.

Audio/Visual Services

MANAGER,
MULTIMEDIA SERVICES
Irwin Campbell

In the early fall of 2008 the Provincial Legislature underwent a major upgrade to their broadcast equipment. Multimedia Services researched the project by visiting and corresponding with other Provincial Legislatures across Canada . A proposal was accepted from Applied Electronics of Mississauga, Ontario. This highly regarded firm has installed equipment in most of the Legislatures across the country. The old video system used in our Legislature was actually an inexpensive surveillance system. The new system uses broadcast standard equipment which produces a much sharper image. The operator can now control the picture quality and can make adjustments to audio and video levels, as well as adjust the hue to match the changing light while the legislature is in session.

The live Internet stream was also upgraded with a duel Niagra Pro streaming appliance which will greatly improve the Internet Service.

With the new system we can fulfill our commitment to provide live and archival streaming of the Legislature proceedings and make it more assessable to the general public.

Legislative Committees

Explanation of Committees

The *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island* lists the standing committees which the House has decided should be appointed in every session. These are the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment, the Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development, the Standing Committee on the Constitution of Canada, the Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation, the Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Standing Committee on Social Development, and the Standing Committee on Legislative Management.

In addition to the standing committees, special committees may be created for a particular purpose, to be disbanded when that purpose is discharged. They can be established during the course of each session, and vary in number and mandate. The Committee on Committees which nominates members to serve on the various standing committees of the House is an example of a special committee.

Committees are regarded creatures of the House, and their structure, authority and mandates are delegated by the House. Procedurally, they are governed by the same rules which prevail in the House, with the exception as to the seconding of motions and limiting the number of times of speaking.

Committees are empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things that may be referred to them by the House. In addition, by majority decision of their membership, committees may meet to examine and inquire into such matters and things as the committee itself deems

CLERK OF COMMITTEES
Marian Johnston

COMMITTEE CLERK
Melissa Keefe

STANDING COMMITTEES

Agriculture, Forestry, & Environment

Community Affairs & Economic Development

Constitution of Canada

Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs, & Transportation

Privileges, Rules, & Private Bills

Public Accounts

Social Development

Special Committees are created for a particular purpose, then disbanded when that purpose is discharged. They can be established during the course of each session, and vary in number and mandate.

appropriate. They are required to report to the House from time to time their observations and opinions, and possess the power to send for persons, papers and records.

Committees have a sessional mandate, and are dissolved by dissolution or prorogation of the House unless a committee has been given permission by the House to meet after prorogation to continue its inquiries. The only exception to this is the Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills, which is empowered to sit when the House is not in session. All committees authorized to meet intersessionally must report to the next session of the House within ten sitting days of its commencement.

Summary of Activity

In total, 91 meetings were held during 2008 to undertake the work mandated to various committees. The following pages present information regarding committee membership, number of meetings, and subject matter and dates of the committees' reports to the Legislative Assembly for Janaury 1, 2008, to December 31, 2008.

Special Committee on Committees

Before committees can organize themselves or undertake any business, the membership of each committee must be established. The Committee on Committees is charged with the selection of members for all the standing committees, with the exception of the Standing Committee on Legislative Management.

The Committee on Committees was formed by motion on April 4, 2008, and reported to the Legislative Assembly on April 24, 2008. As is the case with all special committees, the Committee on Committees ceased to exist upon adoption of its final report.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Rob Vessey, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Paula Biggar
Hon, Olive Crane
Hon. Wes Sheridan

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 1

REPORTS: *Composition of the Standing Committees (APRIL 24, 2008)*

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry & Environment

During the year, the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment met a to receive briefings on a number of issues related to its mandate. Witnesses addressed issues relating to land and resource use, value-added opportunities, market development, locally-grown and locally-produced food, organic agriculture, social and community aspects of agriculture, the necessity of preserving and enhancing the province's forests and the role of government in supporting agriculture, forestry and the environment. As well, the topic of bioenergy was discussed at several meetings.

The committee also continued its review of the implementation and potential impact of a province-wide ban on the use of cosmetic lawn pesticides, submitting its recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on April 22, 2008. Throughout the public consultation phase of the committee's consideration of this topic, a great deal of public interest was evident, with a total of 227 submissions received from groups and individuals. Additionally, on two occasions, committee members participated in tours, visiting an oilseed extraction facility and a cranberry bog to observe the start of the harvest.

Members of the committee tour an oilseed extraction plant.

L to r: Buck Watts (Tracadie-Hillsborough Park), Robert Henderson (O'Leary-Inverness), and Alan MacIsaac (Vernon River-Stratford), committee Chair.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Alan McIsaac, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Hon. Carolyn Bertram
Hon. Olive Crane
Hon. Valerie Docherty
Cynthia Dunsford
Robert Henderson
Charles McGeoghegan
Robert Vessey
Buck Watts

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 18

REPORTS: *Report on Committee Activities (April 10, 2008)*

Cosmetic Pesticides (April 22, 2008)

Committee Activities (May 20, 2008)

Committee Activities (November 27, 2008)

Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development

During 2008, the Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development met seven times to complete its review of Sunday shopping. The committee was charged by motion in the fall of 2007 with conducting public hearings on Sunday shopping to solicit the views of Islanders and was asked to report back to the Legislative Assembly on the committee's findings. The committee's report on Sunday shopping was tabled in the House on April 11, 2008, and was adopted unanimously. The Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development also tabled a second report in April 2008 detailing its other activities, including a review of the growing bioscience industry in the province.

In the Spring of 2008, the Committee met once to elect its chairman and submitted a third report to the Legislative Assembly on May 20, 2008. The Committee asked for authorization to meet beyond the prorogation of the Second Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly and the report was adopted unanimously.

In early Summer of 2008, the Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development met to determine its agenda for the coming months. The committee agreed to review the state of rural development on Prince Edward Island and met twice in August of 2008 to receive briefings from different organizations, including the newly formed Department of Rural Development. Throughout the fall of 2008 the committee held six meetings in various communities across the province to hear

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Robert Henderson, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Paula Biggar
Hon. Doug Currie
Michael Currie
Cynthia Dunsford
Sonny Gallant
Robert Mitchell
Janice Sherry

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 18

REPORTS: *Sunday Shopping (April 11, 2008)*

Report on Committee Activities (April 16, 2008)

Committee Activities Report (May 20, 2008)

Report on Rural Development (November 26, 2008)

presentations and also held two meetings in Charlottetown. The Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development's report on rural development was submitted to the Legislative Assembly on November 26, 2008, and it was adopted unanimously.

Standing Committee on the Constitution of Canada

The Standing Committee on the Constitution of Canada is charged with matters concerning the Constitution of Canada and, as a committee dealing with provincial-federal matters, is chaired by the Premier.

The constitutional amending formula established in the *Constitution Act, 1982,* requires each province to either support and enact each constitutional amendment or, if the province wishes to dissent from the amendment, to pass a resolution of dissent so the amendment will have no power in that province.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Robert Ghiz, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Hon. Alan Campbell
Hon. Olive Crane
Hon. Valerie Docherty
Hon. Gerard Greenan
Robert Vessey

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 1

REPORTS: *Committee Activities (May 20, 2008)*

Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs, & Transportation

On November 1, 2007, a motion was adopted by the Legislative Assembly instructing the Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation to conduct a thorough review of the collapse of Polar Foods International Inc., a business failure the Auditor General identified as costing Island taxpayers approximately $31 million. The committee met eight times in 2008 to complete its work in this regard.

During the course of its investigations, the committee reviewed in excess of 1,200 pages of background materials; met with or received written comments from 20 groups and individuals; traveled throughout the province to hold public meetings; and received many personal contacts on the subject. The committee received varied input regarding the causes and outcomes of the collapse of Polar Foods International Inc., and after due consideration, made a number of recommendations in this matter: (1) that the Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development review, in detail, the testimony received by the committee and take a lead role, in conjunction with industry, in preparing the strategy for the development and sustainability of the lobster fishing and processing industries in the province; (2) that the Companies Act be amended to make it consistent with similar acts in other Canadian jurisdictions; and (3) that the Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills study the advisability of establishing a new standing committee of the Legislative Assembly to be charged with matters concerning crown corporations, boards and agencies.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Bush Dumville, Cha
Jim Bagnall
Michael Currie
Charles McGeoghegan
Alan McIsaac (until May 6, 2008)
Robert Mitchell
Pat Murphy
Hon. Wes Sheridan
Buck Watts

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 9

REPORTS: *Collapse of Polar Foods International Inc. (April 15, 2008)*

Committee Activities (May 21, 2008)

Review of the Collapse of Polar Foods International Inc. (November 19, 2008)

Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules & Private Bills

The Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills continued its consideration of a number of proposed modifications to the published rules of the Legislative Assembly. Specifically examined were the incorporation of committee guidelines into the main body of the rules; simplification of capitalization; re-drafting of several rules to agree with the practices of the House; inclusion of a table of contents; expansion of the forms of proceeding and addition of a glossary; and the use of more modern and gender-neutral language. Along with these changes, the committee members reviewed comments and explanations written to accompany the rules. The committee also discussed a number of other matters including sitting hours; length of oral question period; daily prayers; protocol in the event of the death of a sitting member; use of technology in the chamber; officers of the Legislative Assembly; and distribution of tabled documents.

Perhaps the most significant recommendation made to the Legislative Assembly concerned the adoption of a parliamentary calendar intended to better organize the time of the House and of members. In April 2008, the committee recommended the spring sitting open during the first week of April each year; and that the fall sitting commence on the first sitting day following Remembrance Day each year; and that 60 days' notice of the opening day be provided to members. In its final report of 2008, the committee recommended that a list of documents tabled during Committee of the Whole be added to the daily journal; that ministers bring 25 copies of each document they intend to table; and, to take effect with the opening of the Third Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly, that membership on standing committees be reduced from a

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Paul Biggar, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Hon. Richard Brown
Hon. Olive Crane
Hon, Ron MacKinley
Janice Sherry
Robert Vessey
Hon. George Webster

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 8

REPORTS: *Committee Activities & Adoption of Parliamentary Calendar (April 16, 2008)*

Report on Committee Activities (May 21, 2008)

Report on Committee Activities (November 21, 2008)

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met four times in the winter of 2008 and completed its review of the *2007 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly* in March. The committee tabled a report to the House on April 9, 2008, detailing its review of the report, as well as its consideration of the Auditor General's *Small Claims Audit Process Audit Report June 2007*.

The committee met in May 2008 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman. Shortly thereafter, the committee submitted a report to the Legislative Assembly seeking authorization to meet after the prorogation of the Second Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly. The report was adopted unanimously and the committee held a meeting in June to discuss its agenda for the coming months. The committee agreed to adjourn for the summer and confirmed several meeting dates for the fall.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts reconvened in September of 2008 and held eight meetings throughout the fall to conduct its business. The committee met with the Auditor General three times to review the *2008 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly*. The committee also meet twice with Mr. Jim Ferguson, CEO, and Mr. Allan O'Keefe, Classification and Employee Relations, from the Public Service Commission. Mr. Ferguson and Mr. O'Keefe provided the committee with additional information on workforce incentive programs that were discussed in the *2007 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly*. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts also received a briefing from Ms. Jamie MacDonald, Provincial

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Jim Bagnall, Chair
Paula Biggar
Hon. Olive Crane
Bush Dumville (until September 30, 2008)
Cynthia Dunsford
Sonny Gallant (as of September 30, 2008)
Charles McGeoghegan
Alan McIsaac (until September 30, 2008)
Pat Murphy
Janice Sherry
Buck Watts

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 15

REPORT S: *Report on Committee Activities (April 9, 2008)*

Committee Activities Report (May 21, 2008)

Committee Activities (November 19, 2008)

Director of Diagnostic Imaging. Ms. MacDonald presented a detailed analysis of her department's response to recommendations put forward by the Office of the Auditor General in the *2008 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly*.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts also began a review of the administration of the Provincial Nominee Program in fall of 2008. The Committee met twice with Honorable Richard Brown, Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning, to receive briefings on the program, in particular on how it was implemented and managed. In December of 2008, the Committee decided to adjourn its review of PNP until Spring 2009, at which time the Auditor General is expected to report on his own review of the program.

Standing Committee on Social Development

Throughout the winter of 2008, the Standing Committee on Social Development met nine times to conduct its business. The committee received briefings on topics related to its mandate from a myriad of groups ranging from non-profit organizations to various government departments. The committee tabled a report detailing six recommendations to the House on April 17, 2008. The report was adopted unanimously.

As well, the Standing Committee on Social Development is responsible for recommending to the Legislative Assembly persons to serve on the Human Rights Commission. As such, during the Spring of 2008, the Committee met with the Human Rights Commission to receive a briefing on the Commission's work, as well as to receive guidance regarding the necessary qualifications for candidates interested in serving as commissioners. The committee solicited applications from the general public and on April 23, 2008, recommended that Ms. Lou Ann Thompson be reappointed to the Commission for a term of three years. The committee also recommended that Mr. John Rogers be appointed to the Commission for a term of three years. The committee's report was adopted unanimously by the House.

In May of 2008, the Standing Committee on Social Development met to elect its chairman and subsequently tabled a third report to the House. The committee asked for authorization to sit beyond prorogation of the Second Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly in order to conduct its business intersessionally and the report was adopted unanimously. The committee met in June 2008 to outline its work plan for the coming months and adjourned until the fall.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Janice Sherry, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Paula Biggar
Michael Currie
Cynthia Dunsford
Sonny Gallant
Robert Henderson
Hon. Neil LeClair

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 21

REPORTS: *Report on Committee Activities (April 17, 2008)*

Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission (April 23, 2008)

Committee Activities (May 21, 2008)

Safe Use of Cell Phones (November 28, 2008)

Proposed Amendments to the Smoke-free Places Act (November 28, 2008)

Committee Activities (December 3, 2008)

Legislative Committees

In September of 2008, the Standing Committee on Social Development resumed its mandate in earnest and held eight meetings during the fall of 2008. Among the items on the committee's agenda was a request from the Minister of Health and Social Services and Seniors, the Honorable Doug Currie, to provide assistance to the Department of Health regarding a list of proposed amendments to the *Smoke-free Places Act*. On behalf of the Department of Health, Minister Currie requested that the committee hold public hearings and accept written submissions from affected stakeholders to ensure that all individuals and organizations had an opportunity to express their support, opposition, questions or concerns about the proposed amendments to government before any changes were enacted. Minister Currie also asked the committee to provide the Department with a summary report of the feedback received.

The Standing Committee on Social Development was also charged by motion on May 20, 2008, to seek public input and undertake analysis on the potential need for new legislation that would prohibit drivers from using handheld telephones while operating a motor vehicle. The committee was asked to report its findings to the Legislative Assembly in the fall of 2008.

The Committee also received briefings from the Early Childhood Development Association of Prince Edward Island, as well as from the Prince Edward Island Senior Citizens' Federation . As such, during the fall 2008 sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Standing Committee on Social Development tabled three reports to the House detailing its work and recommendations. All three reports were adopted unanimously.

Conferences

Professional development is an important resource to help staff and members work efficiently by networking with peers and colleagues, and learn about the latest developments in public administration and job performance

- The *Twenty-eighth Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees* was held in Victoria, British Columbia, from September 7-9, 2008. Attending from Prince Edward Island were delegates Jim Bagnall (District 3, Montague-Kilmuir) and Buck Watts (District 8, Tracadie-Hillsborough Park).

- The *Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees* (CCPAC) is a national association that meets annually to discuss topics of mutual interest. Its members represent the parliamentary public accounts committees, or similar committees, of all 14 parliaments within Canada - the federal House, the ten provincial assemblies and three territorial legislatures.

- Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees, and Melissa Keefe, Committee Clerk, attended the annual Professional Development Seminar of the *Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada*, held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in August 2008.

Hansard

HANSARD MANAGER
Jeff Bursey

In 2008, Hansard PEI continued producing the daily debates in timely fashion. The full Hansard document is produced on a strict schedule: Tuesday's Hansard is distributed on Thursday, Wednesday's Hansard is distributed on Friday, Thursday's Hansard is distributed on Tuesday, and Friday's Hansard is distributed on Wednesday. It is the aim of this office to make sure that the document is ready for 5:00 p.m. the day before publication so that it can be put online.

Hansard PEI was created at the commencement of the 4th Session of the Fifty-ninth General Assembly in 1996.

Question Period underwent a change in production in the fall of 2008. After a realignment of the process by which it was produced, it became available earlier in the evening electronically; the timing of its print appearance remained unchanged.

The Index to the daily debates was completed and distributed in August 2008. It retains features of the 2007 index that people have found useful.

Standing Committee meetings increased in frequency beginning in the fall of 2007 and through to the opening of the House in April 2008. It seemed advisable to index the information presented by MLAs, Legislative Assembly staff, bureaucrats, experts, consultants and the general public. The Index of Standing Committees, the first ever committee index, was printed in July 2008 and covered the period of 23 October 2007 to 26 March 2008 (excluding in camera discussion). The positive response to this new publication ensured that it would be a continuing feature of Hansard's production. A second volume covering the period 6 May to 17 December 2008 appeared in January 2009.

On 30 July 2008, the manager of Hansard PEI presented at CompuCollege, addressing approximately 25 students of the Legal Administrative Assistant Program as part of their

Since 2003 both the Hansard document and the division itself have advanced steadily in terms of layout of debates, professionalism, and breadth of operations.

transcription module. This was set up by the Hansard manager and a CompuCollege instructor. In a 30-minute address, students were given a brief history of Hansard, told its role in the Legislative Assembly, and shown how important transcribers are worldwide. This introduced students to Hansard and a potential employment opportunity; for Hansard, it served to widen the number of people who might want to apply for work here. It was a successful presentation, and there was interest in having the experience repeated. On 29 October 2008, a similar talk was given by the manager to approximately 100 Holland College students from the journalism and medical support services program, along with their instructors. This, too, proved successful, and generated many questions, as well as the possibility of returning in 2009.

For the fifth consecutive year, Hansard PEI had a presence at the annual Hansard Association of Canada conference, held in August 2008 in Fredericton, New Brunswick. As well, Hansard commenced editing and indexing the Journal of the Legislative Assembly for 2007-2009.

In the spring of 2008 the Hansard staff consisted of transcribers Judy Burgoyne, Helen Gunter, Linda Henry (Assistant Manager), and Barbara O'Hare. There were personnel changes in October 2008, and the transcribers now are Cheryl Connel, Crystal Gallant, Linda Henry (Assistant Manager), and Barbara O'Hare.

At the conclusion of a session the printed Hansard, with the complete index, is bound into volumes which are distributed within the Legislative offices, to government and opposition offices, and to libraries locally and nationally. So far, these volumes have appeared:

1996: 4th Session of the 59th General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,238 pages)

Hansard

1997-1998: 1st Session of the 60th General Assembly; 13 volumes (6,150 pages)

1998-1999: 2nd Session of the 60th General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,623 pages)

1999-2000: 3rd Session of the 60th General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,001 pages)

2000: 1st Session of the 61st General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,054 pages)

2000-2001: 2nd Session of the 61st General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,100 pages)

2001-2002: 3rd Session of the 61st General Assembly; 2 volumes (2,417 pages)

2002-2003: 4th Session of the 61st General Assembly; 3 volumes (2,788 pages)

2003-2004: 1st Session of the 62nd General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,300 pages)

2004-2005: 2nd Session of the 62nd General Assembly; 4 volumes (3,762 pages)

2005-2006: 3rd Session of the 62nd General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,466 pages)

2006-2007: 4th Session of the 63rd General Assembly; 2 volumes (2,281 pages)

The 63rd General Assembly, which will contain the 1st session (July-November 2007) and the 2nd session, will be bound after the second session concludes.

Legislative Library

RESEARCH LIBRARIAN
Laura Morrell

The first Legislative Library was created in 1773, with the establishment of the Legislature, but by 1971 it was only an adjunct of the Confederation Centre Public Library, and a responsibility of the Department of Education.

Renovations to the library space began in January of 2008 and continued into May of the same year. A successful opening ceremony was held for the library on May 22, 2008, with members and House staff in attendance. Though this was the last sitting day of the House for the Spring session, a busy committee schedule ensured a busy research season for library staff, particularly in the early spring and fall.

The Research Librarian participated in - and provided support for - many projects undertaken by House staff over the past year. Early in the year, library staff consulted with the Clerk on the redesign of the Legislative Assembly's web page, an ongoing project which will be completed in 2009. Administrative support was provided to the Indemnities and Allowances Commission during its review of MLA remuneration. The library also assumed responsibility for the design and production of the Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly, and assisted with the design and production of the program for the *27th Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference* held in Charlottetown in June of 2008. There were also many reference questions from peers and researchers across Canada, as well as research requests from members and, occasionally, other government agencies: in total, about 39 such inquiries and reports were handled by the librarian in 2008.

2008 provided many professional development opportunities, from traveling to Newfoundland to meet Kim berley Hammond, Legislative Librarian and then-president of the *Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada*, to attending information and education sessions on trends and technology in libraries sponsored by the *Prince Edward Island Professional Librarians' Association*, of which the librarian in a member. In the spring, the *Atlantic Provinces Library Association* held its annual conference in

Charlottetown. In partnership with the Luis Roman of Fortune 50 Design, the firm hired to do the library renovations, a successful presentation was made to other professional librarians about the Legislative Library's renovation.

In August, the librarian had the chance to attend a series of meetings and conferences with her peers. It was the first opportunity for the librarian to meet most of her fellow legislative librarians, and it was a very rewarding experience. The meetings included:

- the directors' meeting of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada, hosted by William Young, Canada's Parliamentary Librarian, in Ottawa;
- the 24th Annual Conference of Library and Research Services for Parliamentarians, hosted by the Library of Parliament in Ottawa;
- the 74th Annual World Library and Information Congress, hosted by the National Assembly in Quebec City.

As the library continues to add to its collection and to the professional development of its staff members, I look forward to the dynamic future of the Legislative Library of Prince Edward Island.

International delegates to the 24th Annual Conference of Library and Research Services to Parliamentarians.

Research Service

RESEARCH OFFICER
Ryan Conway

This year the Research Officer completed roughly 45 research tasks at the request of standing committees, MLAs, staff of caucus offices, and staff of the Legislative Assembly. The nature of the requests varied greatly, and the type of response was adjusted accordingly. Some common types of requests include written reports and oral presentations to standing committees; statistics from Statistics Canada or other sources; summaries of legislation in other jurisdictions; and background research toward drafting of private members' bills. The issues of cell phone use while driving and proposed amendments to the *Smoke-Free Places Act* are two examples of research topics assigned in 2008. Non-research committee support has largely consisted of writing summaries of presentations given by standing committee witnesses and drafting recommendations for committees to consider in their reports to the House.

A range of sources were used to obtain information to meet research requests. Common sources include the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII), the World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII), web sites and electronic records of state and provincial legislatures, current and archived media reports, commissioned studies from various jurisdictions, interviews with government officials on PEI and elsewhere, Statistics Canada publications, and academic journal articles. The Robertson Library at UPEI provides external access to their electronic journals databases, which has proven very beneficial.

In September the Research Officer participated in the 2008 Parliamentary Visitor Services Association (PVSA) Conference in Edmonton/Jasper, Alberta. The purpose for

attending the PVSA conference was to learn how other Canadian jurisdictions interpret their legislatures and gather ideas for possible use in the interpretation of Province House. The PVSA is nearing it's 20th year of existence and is made up of knowledgeable visitor services professionals from across Canada.

Front Row, L to R: *Brian Hodgson (AB); Vanessa Gregg (MB); Debi LaMantia (ON); Karen Aitken (BC); Angeline Laffin (National Capital Commission); Cindy Rennie (NU); Diane Mercier-Allain (NB); Danielle O'Neill (NWT); Colleen Cameron (AB); Diane Brayman (AB)*

Middle Row, L to R: *Karyn Leonard (ON); Peter Theriault (NS); Benoit Morin (Parliament of Canada); Stacey Matson (Parliament of Canada); Chantal Lorrion (QC); Lorraine deMontigny (SK)*

Back Row, L to R: *Ryan Conway (PEI); Steven Catherall (UK Houses of Parliament)*

The Role of the Sergeant-At-Arms

The Sergeant-At-Arms is part of the Office of the Legislative Assembly as defined in the Legislative Assembly Act, RSPEI 1988 Cap L-7. The position is steeped in parliamentary tradition.

With the Sergeant-At-Arms and the Mace, the House may exercise its considerable rights and privileges and the various parliamentary functions assigned to it.

Today, the Sergeant-At-Arms on Prince Edward Island is responsible for the provision of security services for the Legislative Assembly, bearing the Mace during the daily procession into the House, ensuring the safekeeping of the Mace, and carrying out such other duties as may be assigned by the Speaker or the Clerk.

The Sergeant-At-Arms is also responsible for the implementation and day-to-day operations of security policies for the Legislative Assembly. The objective is to provide a safe and secure environment for MLAs and Assembly staff to conduct their parliamentary responsibilities in Province House and the Coles Building. At present, assisting the Sergeant-At-Arms in the delivery of security services are seven Members of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires (one full-time and six part-time).

Additional responsibilities include monitoring and maintenance of electronic surveillance equipment, additional training of security personnel, liaison with Charlottetown City Police as required, creation of contingency plans for bomb threats, fire evacuation plans, contact for assistance with public demonstrations, and other duties.

The office originated in the early years of British Parliament, when mace-bearing members of the Royal bodyguard were assigned to attend the Speaker at sittings of the House of Commons.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS & GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD
Warrant Officer J.A. (Al) McDonald, C.D.

ASSISTANT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Maurice Fitzpatrick

Sergeant-At-Arms

W/O Al McDonald, C.D., a member of the Canadian Armed Forces for 27 years, was appointed Sergeant-At-Arms July 6, 2007.

Activities

2008 was an interesting and very busy year.

The spring of 2008 brought updates to electronic surveillance equipment, including changing to wide angle cameras, installing larger monitors with more advanced technology, and switching from a VHS-based security recording system to a much more sophisticated and advanced DVR recording system. Updates were also made to the computers in security to enhance the monitoring system.

2008 also brought additional security responsibilities with the installation of a security system in the J. Angus MacLean Building, monitored by the security staff from the Hon. George Coles Building. A proposal for new surveillance, electronics and monitoring equipment for the Coles Building has been made to allow security at that location to carry out their duties in an efficient and professional manner.

Commissionaires Trevor Darrach (L) and Morgan Mitchell (R).

During the past year I had the privilege of attending the Sergeant-At-Arms Conference in Ottawa from July 27, 2008, to August 1, 2008. In attendance were the Sergeant-At-Arms, Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms and Directors of Security from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. Topics discussed at the conference included:

- Protective Intelligence Threat Assessment Program
- Master Security Plan
- The Sergeant and the ongoing relationship with Presiding Officers
- Terrorism Threats to Parliament

Sergeant-At-Arms

Fred Fordham

John Rix, C.D.

- Business Continuity Management
- Long term vision and plan for the Parliamentary Precinct
- Security initiatives at Parliament: A New Zealand Perspective
- The changing role of the Sergeant-At-Arms in London and Security arrangements

A great deal was learned from the conference and our discussions. It enabled the Sergeant-At-Arms to return and implement some changes to security allowing for a safer and more secure work place for all.

The Sergeant-At-Arms Conference is held each year in a different location and I am looking forward to future meetings and discussions on ways we can make Prince Edward Island's legislature a safer and better place to work.

2008 provided an increase in the security staff at the Legislative Assembly. The new members are Al Vaicekonis, Fred Fordham, and Gerard Bell, C.D. Security staff at the House welcomed the return of Joe Basha, Bob Horobin, and John Rix, C.D., with Commissionaires Trevor Darrach and Morgan Mitchell overseeing the Coles Building.

Legislative Assembly Security, l to r: Gerard Bell, C.D.; W/O Al McDonald, C.D., S.A.A; Maurice Fitzpatrick, Asst. S.A.A.; Bob Horobin; Joe Basha

On July 2, 2008, word was received of the untimely death of Comm. Gerard Bell, C.D., as the result of a vehicle accident. He will be greatly missed by all the Legislative Assembly.

Sessional Administration Office

OFFICERS
Gail Jenkins

Myra LeCLair

The Sessional Administrative Office supports the records retention aspect required of the Clerk in his duty to maintain accurate records of the House. The Sessional Administrative Office receives and archives a copy of everything tabled in the House during a session, as well as copies of documents tabled intersessionally. While the House is in session, office staff attend sittings and cue House proceedings for the transcriptionists in the Hansard office.

During sessions, staff produces daily publications such as copies of bills and legislation, the Journal, Orders of the Day, Motions, and Questions and Answers, providing copies of same to the Clerks, Members, and the media.

As part of its role as clearinghouse for Assembly documents, staff also undertakes daily mailings to Opposition Office, Government Members Office, Island New Democrats, Hansard, PEI Law Society, Government Services Library, Legislative Library, Robertson Library at UPEI, and Library of Parliament, Ottawa. In addition to sending out hard copies of documents, staff also maintains the Legislative Assembly website with daily postings of the Journal, Orders of the Day, Motions, Legislation, Questions, Answers, Documents Tabled, Oral Question Period, and Hansard.

The office is also responsible for managing the pages who serve in the House during a session, providing training, support, and scheduling.

When the House is not in session, staff works with the Standing Committees in recording, cueing in speakers, and providing transcripts of meetings.

The Indemnities & Allowances Commission

The Indemnities and Allowances Commission is appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (pursuant to Section 46 of the Legislative Assembly Act, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. L-7) and is charged with the responsibility of making binding decisions on remuneration and allowances to be paid to Members of the Legislative Assembly, Premier, Speaker, Ministers of the Crown, various House and Executive Council Committee positions.

Members of the Commission are appointed for the duration of the General Assembly in which they are appointed or for not more than five years.

The Commission conducts an annual review of remuneration and allowances and submits, on or before December 1 each year, a report determining the remuneration and allowances to be paid to the persons referred to in subsection 46(1) of the Legislative Assembly Act.

Members of the Commission as appointed by Hon. Kathleen Casey, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, for the 63rd General Assembly are:

- Ms. Barbara Stevenson, Q.C., Chair
- Mr. Blair Campbell, Commissioner, and,
- Mr. Leonard Cusack, Commissioner

The Commission's last report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Hon. Speaker on December 2, 2008. The report determined that a 2.5% increase in remuneration would be applied to MLA, Ministerial and other associated positions effective April 1, 2009.

The Commission also carefully reviewed, and reported to the Legislative Assembly in September 2008, on the MLA Pension Plan. The report is entitled *Pension Plan for Members of the Legislative Assembly - Province of Prince Edward Island* (as amended and restated as at April 1, 2008).

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Barbara Stevenson, Q.C., Chair

Blair Campbell, Commissioner

Leonard Cusack, Commissioner

DATE REPORT FILED
December 2, 2008

Members of the Commission are appointed for the duration of the General Assembly in which they are appointed, or for not more than five years.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Aims, Goals and Activities of the Association

The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy.

The Association is a charity registered under the laws of the United Kingdom.

Its purpose is to promote knowledge and understanding of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural systems within a parliamentary democratic framework. It undertakes this mission with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations and to countries having close historical and parliamentary associations with it.

CPA provides the sole means of regular consultation among Members of Commonwealth Parliaments. It fosters cooperation and understanding among them and promotes the study of, and respect for, Parliament.

The CPA pursues these objectives by means of

- Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences, Regional Conferences and other symposiums;
- Interparliamentary visits;
- Parliamentary Seminars and Workshops;
- Publications, notably *The Parliamentarian*, *Canadian Parliamentary Review* and two newsletters on CPA activities and on parliamentary and political events;
- Parliamentary Information and Reference Centre communications.

Prince Edward Island Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

BRANCH PRESIDENT
Hon. Kathleen Casey, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island Branch, CPA

The PEI Branch of CPA is comprised of all Members of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. The Hon. Kathleen Casey, as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, serves as Branch President and Vice-Presidents are Hon. Robert Ghiz, Premier and Hon. Olive Crane, Leader of the Opposition.

Activities

In 2008 the Prince Edward Island Branch participated in the following activities of the Canadian Region of the CPA:

- 46th Annual Canadian Regional Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia. PEI representatives were: Hon. Kathleen Casey, Cynthia Dunsford, Hon. Olive Crane, Alan MacIsaac, Janice Sherry, Robert Vessey and Charles MacKay, Clerk.
- Prince Edward Island hosted the 27th Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference at Province House in June, 2008. Business Sessions were held in the Legislative Chamber of Province House and included discussions on;
    - Challenges of a Party of One in a 48 Seat Legislature (presenter: Ms. Lorraine A. Michael, NDP Leader and MHA, NL
    - Nunavut's Consensus Style Government (presenter: Mr. John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, NU
    - Democracy 250 Celebrations in NS (presenter: Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA, Speaker, NS)

- The Theory and Practice of Youth Engagement in Party Politics (presenter: Dr. Leonard Preyra, MLA, NS)

- The Role of the MLA: A New Member's Perspective (presenter: Mr. Rick Miles, MLA, NB)

- Public Engagement and Legislatures (presenters: Dr. Lori Turnbull, Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University & Mr. Ivan MacArthur, Citizens' Assembly Advocate, Charlottetown, PEI

- The Annual Canadian Regional Seminar was held in Ottawa in October, 2008. PEI representatives were Jim Bagnall, MLA, Robert Henderson, MLA and Sonny Gallant, MLA.

- The 54th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and Small Countries Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in August, 2008. PEI's delegate was Branch President Hon. Kathleen Casey, who also attended the CPA Executive Committee meetings as one of the three Canadian Representatives.

- As a Member of the Canadian Regional Executive, the Hon. Kathleen Casey attended the mid-year CPA International Executive meeting in the Jersey Islands, UK.

- The Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference was held in Quebec City in January, 2008. PEI delegates were Hon. Kathleen Casey, Speaker, Paula Biggar, Deputy Speaker and Charles MacKay, Clerk.

Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie

The *Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie* brings together parliamentarians from 77 parliaments or inter-parliamentary organizations from five continents. Its actions strives principally to promote and defend democracy, the right to development, the respect of human rights, the international development of the French language and cultural diversity. The APF was created in 1967 and is the consultative body to the head of States of the *Sommet de la Francophonie.*

Prince Edward Island is one of 13 members of the Americas Regional Assembly and the provincial division of the organization is under the direction of Ms. Cynthia Dunsford, MLA. Ms. Dunsford was appointed as President of the P.E.I. Section of the APF in October 2007 by Hon. Kathleen Casey, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

Ms. Dunsford represented the P.E.I. Section at the *Conférence des Présidents de Section de la Région Amérique* (Presidents of Sections Conference) held in March 2008 in Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia. Ms. Dunsford also attended the *Session de L'Assemblée Régionale Amérique* (the Americas Regional Assembly) held in Quebec City from June 30th to July 3rd, 2008.

Until December of 2008, the administrative duties of the P.E.I. Section of the APF were handily managed by Mr. Ricky Hitchcock, who served as Secretary of the APF for the provincial division for several years. The P.E.I. Section of the APF and the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by Mr. Hitchcock to the APF organization during his tenure as Secretary, and extend best wishes to Mr. Hitchcock in all future endeavors. The position of Secretary of the P.E.I. Section of the APF is now held by Melissa Keefe, Committee Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

PRESDIENT, PEI SECTION OF THE *ASSEMBLÉ PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE*
Cynthia Dunsford, MLA

SECRETARY, PEI SECTION OF THE *ASSEMBLÉ PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE*
Melissa Keefe, Committee Clerk